

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING of
THE OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE ADVISORY GROUP
(OHVAG) of
THE ARIZONA STATE PARKS BOARD**

**February 25th, 2011, at State Parks Board Room,
1300 W. Washington St., Phoenix beginning at 10:00 a.m.**

A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL – 10:20 AM

B. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS AND STAFF

Present: Pete Pfeifer, John Savino, Rebecca Antle, Don French, Hank Rogers, David Moore

Staff present: Robert Baldwin

1. The Statewide OHV Program Mission is to develop and enhance statewide off-highway vehicle recreation opportunities, and develop educational programs that promote resource protection, social responsibility, and interagency cooperation.

2. The OHV Ambassador Program is a partnership of agencies and volunteers dedicated to enhancing motorized recreation opportunities and management in Arizona.

C. ACTION ITEMS

3. Discussion of OHVAG Issues. Assistant Director, Jay Ziemann will discuss the concerns expressed by John Savino on behalf of OHVAG in his presentation to Parks Board at their November 17, 2010 meeting.

Savino – Reviewed the presentation he made to the State Parks Board re: (1) reduction in staff assigned to OHV program, more money with sticker revenue, OHVAG wants project proposals sooner to review project before it comes up for funding in meeting,

Pfeifer – suggested we get local clubs involved in giving input on projects in their area

French – stated that if reimbursement were available he would be more inclined to visit project sites

Rogers – getting more information out on how sticker funds are being used is going to keep it from being taken by the Legislature

Antle – reimbursement is

Moore – suggested that applicants make a presentation when grants are being considered

Savino – (2) vacancies should be filled in more timely manner, the person we recommend today should go to the next Board meeting, these are vacancies, not expired terms

Antle – volunteers are hard to come by, they should be treated properly

Moore – it is more important to fill the vacant positions than worry about the criteria for each position, if we can't get people that meet the exact requirements, take the person with that meet most of the criteria

Antle – we need to ensure that all recreation groups are represented, you might discover all of a sudden that there is no one representing one of the groups, maybe just the county issue

Moore – obviously the requirements by counties is a little skewed because the population isn't built that way, but isn't it more important to have a use representative in the seat no matter what county they represent?

Savino – (3) provide staff to keep webpage and newspaper up to date and available/ distributed, meet with OHVAG before the next meeting to develop recommendations that staff can present to OHVAG for consideration at their next meeting, this request was ignored

Pfeifer – I can see that this might create burnout for a volunteer position

Savino – I was hoping that at the pre-meeting we could sit down with contracts people and work out the specs for an RFP to get a person to do the work of gathering and publishing the OHV information

Rogers – funds would be best spent paying clubs to post the info on their website and newsletter, payment would be based on number of hits, State Parks should contract someone to write the news for the websites, paid to visit projects to gather info and write articles to send to clubs, then monitor their sites, if not posted, no funding

Antle – State Parks should distribute information about the projects directly to the club for them to post

Moore – I think the idea of a printed newsletter is a dinosaur, we need to make sure we distribute diverse information, not just projects, but legislative issues, local use issues and everything specific to OHVs

Savino – when a person is sought, getting all of the different information should be part of the contract

Moore – the person needs to be a journalist

Rogers – I think there are a lot of older users who still like to read a newspaper

Savino – we are trying to consolidate all of our thoughts with one suggestion, if State Parks hires a person we need to make sure they are representing all perspectives, not just the State Parks perspective

Moore – I thought we were trying to hire a PR/reporter person who works for us

Savino – what direction are we trying to go?

Antle – first let try to get the info we have out to the clubs, then get someone to gather more from all over

Rogers – whatever we decide needs to start moving forward now

Savino – (4) we want reimbursement for travel expenses, we need a budget for OHVAG expenses, why are Ambassadors getting uniforms and promotional stuff and we can't, we have funds and should be allowed to use them

Rogers – we should be able to go to events, be introduced by the promoter as OHVAG members, stand in front of crowd in our logo jacket and hat, and talk to the people

about what is going on with their sticker money. We should be more visible as ambassadors for motorized recreation around the State of Arizona.

All – agreed they need a budget to cover travel expenses and logo clothing to be more visible around the state.

Antle – suggested some figures: \$250-300 / person/ meetings (\$10k/ yr), \$3k event travel, \$1k promotional logo setup, \$400 business cards, \$500 shirts, \$1k jackets,

Savino – suggested \$15k

Moore – the public is being short changed because they are not getting the information they should have

Rogers – we need a legitimate logo for OHVAG

Moore – let's suggest \$15k for travel, \$15 for promotions

Savino – (4) reimbursement for travel expenses, this is what we just discussed

Savino – (5) money for apparel and identification cards, we just did that

Savino – (6) since approximately 10% of the State Parks budget is coming from the OHV fund, one of the members of the Board should represent OHV interests, the Chair said the configuration is set by statute but when an at large position is open, it could be specified that the person should represent OHV interests.

All – discussion ensued around influencing the governor and Savino emphasized that the Group should go through the channels and start with the Parks staff. Let's ask Jay when the next at-large position is open, then we make a plan to lobby the governor.

Savino – (7) added another point that the OHVAG recommendation for extending project end dates for the three projects reviewed and voted on in November was changed by staff without consultation from OHVAG. Staff should bring their suggestion to OHVAG before taking something that OHVAG didn't suggest to the Board.

Baldwin – reminded the Group that the Board meeting was only five days after the OHVAG meeting and the project agreements would expire before Board met again.

French / Savino – emphasized that the Group was entrusted with providing their opinion and spent a good amount of time discussing the projects to have staff just go ahead with something else.

Rogers – staff has the option to say they don't agree with the OHVAG recommendation, but should present that recommendation as it was decided.

Savino – emphasized that staff should make some effort to discuss their concerns with OHVAG's recommendation before they change the recommendation.

Rogers – you know we can always attend the Board meetings and speak on the issue.

Pfeifer – all the time I have been part of the Group I have not spoken one-on-one with any of the Board members. I sent them a request to meet and never heard back.

Moore – staff should notify OHVAG when they disagree with or want to change an OHVAG recommendation.

Rogers / Antle – pointed out that the staff dislike for OHVs is not as strong as it used to be and OHVAG is advisory to the Board and they can make an independent decision.

French – I am really not in favor of staff changing our recommendation, it's fine if they want to make their own, but they should present ours as it was decided.

Savino – we do have recourse if we don't think we are appreciated by State Parks, there are other state agencies who would be glad to have us and our fund.

Rogers – I will work hard to get an OHV person in one of the Board spots, I do have the governor's ear, you need to think about who you would want to see in that position.

Adjourned for 10 minutes at 11:25a – Jay Ziemann joined the meeting at 11:35a.

1. Approval of Minutes from the November 12, 2010 Meeting.

Motion Savino, Rogers second.

Antle asked for a correction in Item C.5. The name of the ranch is Rail X. Moore pointed out that he was not present at the meeting.

Approved unanimously with corrections.

3. Discussion of OHVAG Issues. Discussion resumed with Jay Ziemann. I don't want Mr. Savino to think the issues he presented to the Board were overly critical. That is the forum to raise those issues. Your presentation was professional and polite and you represented OHVAG well. I am particularly ecstatic about the way OHVAG, staff, and users are working to get the OHV projects submitted, approved, and funds out the door. From my perspective the process is working better than it ever has. I commend the Board for providing us the flexibility to spend the funds for appropriate purposes. I look forward to bringing this process to the Board at their June budget meeting and getting their approval to get this money spent on projects and the Ambassador Program.

Savino – (numbers refer to list in Agenda Item C.3) (3) our first concern was with the reduction in staff. We don't expect you to hire more staff, but we want more freedom to get things done, to get out there and help our OHV community. Second, (5) was reimbursement for travel made by OHVAG members. We are not asking for the administrative portion of the fund, but a portion of the money we contribute to the fund (sticker sales) to be available to us. Out of those same monies we are asking for item #4 the logo apparel to identify OHVAG members. We are asking for \$30k of our money to get the message out to the public and do our job. OHVAG provided Ziemann with a budget for OHVAG expenses. See the "Attachment to February 25, 2011 Minutes" at the end of these minutes.

Next, (2) we are disappointed that it took so long for our recommendation to fill a vacancy to get to the Board. We're not talking about the expiring terms. This was a position that had been vacant and needed to be filled as soon as possible. We have a nomination coming up today. If we approve that person, we expect it to be taken to the very next State Parks Board meeting. We need these positions filled to maintain our quorums. (6) We've had a lot of discussion about the OHV webpage and newspaper. What I asked for from staff was help in getting what we need to go out for bid. What I asked for was to meet with legal staff to determine what we need to do to go out for a bid and get somebody to start distributing information. We are very concerned that the public is not getting information about how the sticker money is being used. (1) We

want an OHV member on the State Parks Board. We realize you can't do anything about that, but we want your recommendation on what we can do to make that happen.

Rogers – requested that other OHVAG members have an opportunity to ask questions of Jay as well.

Pfeifer – responded that if you have a question, raise your hand to be recognized.

Ziemann – I'll try to answer these in the order they were presented. Your initial point was about the administration of the program. Refresh me on your position.

Rogers / Savino – stated that OHVAG members want to help staff by visiting project sites and meeting with project sponsors to see that projects are moving along and to help solicit more projects. We want to be identified as an important part of the OHV program. We are asking to use our sticker money for that.

Ziemann – I apologize if this always sounds like “woe is me”. This is the org chart for State Parks. The circled positions are all vacant. I am hiring one of these positions who will be Bob's boss. This will be an additional position for the OHV program. The governor has proposed a favorable budget for State Parks. Her budget will help us be able to get some people back in some of these key spots. We need more staff support. Hiring this position is put us in a better place.

Savino – You aren't hearing what we are saying. We want the tools to do what we can to make the OHV program more effective.

Ziemann – With Bob, the new chief, and a little bit of help down the line, I think that's what you are going to be able to expect. As I look down the list to the website, I think that's one of the tools we will be able to help with.

Travel expense reimbursement is going to be a dicey thing. I will take that back to executive staff and we will discuss that further. \$30k would be almost the entire in-state travel budget for State Parks.

Savino – the budget you proposed and was approved by the governor is \$60,600.

Pfeifer – why is it dicey?

Ziemann – as a practical matter the Parks Board and all of the advisory committees have forgone travel reimbursement. The Board is going to Winslow on March 18th for a meeting and to reopen Homolovi park. Winslow is not close for anyone. They are driving, staying overnight, and taking care of their own meals without reimbursement. They don't ask for that. None of the other advisory committees are being reimbursed.

Pfeifer – here's the difference. We represent a segment of the public who is paying for their recreation. They are putting OHV back into the kitty. All we're asking for is a portion of that money to promote and advertise the sticker fund and increase revenues. You can't compare what we are trying to do to any other committee.

Ziemann – the AORCC primary responsibility is to oversee the State Lake Improvement Fund which is exactly like the OHV Recreation Fund in that it included user fees. The Parks Board has fiduciary responsibility over all of the funds. I'm just letting you know the hurdles you face. I am more than willing to go and ask since there is clearly a pot there. I will bear the torch for you.

Antle – would it help if we gave you the breakdown of how we see that money being spent?

Ziemann – you should provide any basic description of the things you hope to accomplish.

Rogers – you know what several of us have been through to get this sticker fund passed. My name is on the line to see that these funds get used. We lost a good member because he was tired not getting reimbursed, especially as gas prices keep getting higher and higher. We want to be responsible in using these funds and it's also our responsibility to see that the fund get out to where they are needed. I'm glad you're willing to carry our torch and I'm willing to make the 500-mile trip to be there with you and answer question if necessary.

Savino – this is our money we're asking for. It doesn't belong to State Parks. We don't any of the 12% you get. We are only asking for what is ours and we feel adamant about this.

Ziemann – I think that the attorney and the legislature would disagree with that. The money is appropriated to the Parks Board and it is the Parks Board that has fiduciary responsible.

Savino – if that is the response we get from you then we will take it directly to the Parks Board.

Ziemann – I think the key is what Hank pointed out that we want to be responsible with the money. As long as that is our goal the Board, the users, Jerry Weiers, will all be supportive of that.

The vacant positions are becoming more of a problem on all of our committees. The Board is trying to focus on specific issues at specific times of the year and ideally would only deal with committees once a year. We're having quorum issues more acutely on some of the other committee and we know we need to address it. I don't know that we can take this to the Board in March as I will be in Phoenix to focus on budget issues. The person responsible for putting items on the agenda needs to be there to answer the questions. This is something that I think we will get done way before November.

Rogers – Why can't you sit down with the director? You should feel comfortable with her presenting it.

Ziemann – it's more than the presentation, it's the questions. She has plenty on her plate, too. Some of the OHVAG appointments have been controversial. I'm telling you that I hope this spring we can get the OHVAG appointment and those for other committees can get put through. Because it is common to other committees, that gives us more impetus to get it done. This one, I don't think is going to be a problem.

Rogers – we know that when Dave was up for appointment there was a political firestorm going on. But, Don appointment wasn't under a controversy.

Ziemann – I realize that, but there were political firestorms on other issues in September and October.

Rogers – wants State Parks to hire a contractor to gather information from the OHV committee and provide that info to club to put on their websites, we would pay the clubs to post the info on their websites.

Savino – go out to bid to develop a webpage with news on legislation, updates on TMR and BLM travel management, info on sticker fund projects with pictures and map, we want a one-stop shop for all Arizona OHV info.

Antle – I can't prove to my people that we are getting anything for the sticker money being spent.

Ziemann – I agree that this should be a concern of this group. I support the idea of getting a part-time contract employee to gather OHV information. We have a webpage that can be adopted to provide any information you want. We can create boxes for any of the information you want to post. We can also create a box with links to all of the clubs. We can provide a link for the clubs to access our website and get the information that you wanted to send them. I think people are accustomed to going to the State Parks website to look for this information. We can buy domain names to direct people to the State Parks website. We own 25-30 domain names that refer searches for Karchner Caverns to the State Parks website. This helps insure that people are getting to the place where they will get the right information. Domain names cost about \$75. A person paid to gather information would be doing it on a continuous basis and new information would be added as it becomes available. I would be happy to pitch this to the Parks Board at the June budget meeting.

Antle – is it possible right away to put the links for the clubs on the webpage?

Ziemann – yes, putting links for the clubs on the website is something we can do. If you can gather that information and provide it to Bob, he will see that the links get setup.

Moore – I agree that it would be much easier to purchase names such as OHV Arizona that would direct searches to this (State Parks) website than to try to create and maintain a totally separate site.

Rogers – I don't think OHV users associate State Parks with any OHV activities and wouldn't go to the State Parks website looking for any OHV information. I think we (OHVAG) need to get out to more clubs and club activities to overcome that perception. That is part of the reason we want the promotional attire. How many hits do you get to the website?

Ziemann – we do track hits but I don't have that information at hand.

Rogers – we track our jamboree website, last year we had 1.7 million hits. That's information we use to get advertising support.

Savino – we need to be able to market the website and it needs to have identity separate from State Parks.

Pfeifer – I would like to contact the Parks Board members and share my thoughts, I work and can't go to all of their Board meetings.

Ziemann – Bob can get you a list of contact information for the Board members, it is public information, in fact they have requested that the advisory committees be able to contact them, the public as well, maybe put together a letter with the ongoing concerns you've got.

Group – discussed web marketing and search engines that would direct people searching for OHV information about AZ to the OHV section of the State Parks website.

Ziemann – you need to decide if you can make what you want work on the State Parks website and I like the idea of getting a contract employee to do the research to get the information you want.

I still get heartburn over shirts and hats. What I think is more valid and would heartily endorse is some kind of identification / business cards. You could laminate a few to put on your briefcase and get each of you a box to hand out all over. They can be printed on both sides. The front would identify you as affiliated with an official state organization, then on the back you could put whatever you want. Add the new website info.

Pfeifer – can we develop our own logo and put on the cards? Or if I get a shirt, can I have that logo on it?

Ziemann – we have a merchandising coordinator that can help you with the logo and get you shirts, I have a problem with buying them for you.

Savino – how is it that a group that is under us, a sub-committee the Ambassador Program, gets all of their apparel, shirts and caps, and you have a problem letting us use our own money and yet you let the Ambassador Program do it.

Moore – it's of as much value to the OHV program as identifying projects to have the public understand that they have representation in the use of the sticker money, we're asking for the shirts so that we have a visible face, we are out there and people will recognize the logo as the same as on the cards and the website and they can come to us with questions.

Pfeifer – I think we're going to have to make the pitch to the State Parks Board, we'll go to them one-on-one.

GAP IN TAPE – DISCUSSION MOVED TO REPRESENTATIVE ON PARKS BOARD

Ziemann – reviewed the expiring positions on the Parks Board, next at-large is open in two years.

Savino – our recommendations for the project extension were for 60 days and required them to make a presentation at the next OHVAG meeting, you provided me with your suggested recommendation five minutes before the Board meeting indicating that you would be recommending the hybrid recommendation. We reviewed the project status at our meeting and took considerable time in making our recommendation. We only allowed them enough time to be at our next meeting. Our point is that if you want to change our recommendation, before you go to the Parks Board we want you to come back to us via conference call so we can discuss it first. We value your input and 90% of the time will agree with you, but if we don't have that opportunity, then why are we sitting here?

Rogers – we felt undermined.

Ziemann – That was certainly not my intention. We have policy in place that if the staff and OHVAG recommendations disagree, and OHVAG representative must be present at the Parks Board meeting to present that opinion. I knew you were present and thought you might address the difference if it was an issue. So, I apologize if that wasn't understood. I understood your concern with having them make a presentation to you before the dates were extended and I thought the hybrid recommendation accomplished that. The administrative issue is that we don't want to extend projects for

short periods only to have to deal with them again after that short period. Our preference is give them plenty of time if it is warranted. In this case the object was to have them appear before May 13th, then if they don't appear or you're not satisfied with what they presented, we deal with canceling the project at that time.

Pfeifer – so what can we expect in the future if staff does not agree with the OHVAG recommendation, will there be a chance to discuss it?

Ziemann – yes, the OHVAG Chair will always be invited to the Parks Board meeting.

Pfeifer – if there is nothing else, we appreciate your time to meet with us.

Ziemann – I was just informed that the State Parks website got 7.5 million hits. We will give you a report at the next meeting.

2. Election of Officers. OHVAG will select a chair and vice-chair to preside over meetings for 2011.

Rogers moved that John Savino serve as chair for OHVAG for the next year. Pfeifer seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Savino thanked Pete Pfeifer for his work as chair over the past year.

Savino moved that Dave Moore serve as vice-chair for OHVAG for the next year. Pfeifer seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Savino thanked Rebecca Antle for her work as vice-chair over the past year.

4. Review Status of BLM-Kingman Field Office Recreational Trails Program Motorized Project#47601, Music Mtn/Crozier Inventory/Signage/Map Development Reconsider Project End Date Extension. A representative from the BLM-Kingman Field Office will make a presentation to identify the current status of the projects and plans to complete the projects within the extended period.

Len Marceau, BLM-Kingman FO – Music Mtn inventory has been completed. We have about 57 miles left to inventory in the Crozier Unit. Advanced Resource Solutions (ARS) will be coming out this spring to complete that inventory. They will also be installing signs. We have seen a substantial increase in the number of routes on the ground, anywhere from 50% to 300%. The Bullhead 4-Wheeler, the Hualapai 4-Wheelers, and the Cerbat Ridge Runners ATV Club are providing volunteer match be doing the field proofing.

We have been very proactive in getting the clubs to help us identify what's out there. When our plan comes out travel will only be allowed on signed routes. If the routes do not go through the decision process, they will not be signed, and yes, some of the routes currently being used will not get signed.

These projects have been stalled because we don't have the money to do the work upfront. Once we get reimbursed, we can reuse the seed money. I now have a couple of field staff that will help get these projects completed.

We are going to completed these inventories, sign the routes, and issue a draft access guide. Our policy now is all roads, jeep trails, and navigable washes are open for use. When we complete our plan for the entire field office in 2013-14, the policy will be use is allowed on signed roads, trails, and areas only.

These projects will be completed within the extended time periods.

Savino moved that the project end dated for BLM-Kingman FO projects #470601 and #470702 be extended by 12 months. Second Moore. Unanimous approval.

5. Review Status of BLM-Kingman Field Office Recreational Trails Program Motorized Project #470702, Cerbat Mtn/White Hills Inventory/Signage/Map Development, Reconsider Project End Date Extension. A representative from the BLM-Kingman Field Office will make a presentation to identify the current status of the projects and plans to complete the projects within the extended period.

Len Marceau, BLM-Kingman FO – ARS will complete the remaining 200 miles of inventory in these units. They will also be installing signs. (See discussion for item C.3.)

6. Consider the Project End Date Extension Approved by the Parks Board for the BLM-Safford Field Office Recreational Trails Program Project #470602, Gila Bend RNCA Inventory/Signage/Map Development, Reconsider Project End Date Extension. A representative from the BLM-Safford Field Office will make a presentation to identify the current status of the project and plans to complete the project within the extended period.

Deborah Morris, BLM-Safford FO (by phone) – The first item, protect access to trails, has been completed. The inventory was completed by Advanced Resource Solutions (ARS) in 2007. I have the fiberglass posts and decals for the road sign. We will not be able to install the signs until the plan is approved. Depending on when the plan is approved, we may need to delete the volunteer portion of the sign installation.

We applied for this grant to get funded to do the inventory so we could complete the travel management plan. Then when the plan was approved we would install the signs and produce the access guide. Now that we are receiving challenges to the plan it is taking much more time than was allowed in the grant and I don't want to keep extending it.

All of the purchased signs will be installed eventually and the volunteers will be used at that time.

During the comment period I made presentations to many user groups, motorized and non, to get their input. We got a lot of comments. Everyone has equal opportunity to comment on the plan. I don't have the names for the OHV groups that have commented on the plan.

I don't have all of the GIS information I need to finish the plan, so I can't tell you what percent of existing trails will be closed. We are doing ground proofing now, but I'm not going to put out a map until I have all of the routes on it for evaluation. This area includes everything north of Hwy 70 from New Mexico on the east to the San Carlos Reservation on the north and west and some areas north of Klondike Road west to Aravaipa.

We have some route maps available, but I will not be able to produce the Access Guide until the plan is approved, so I will probably ask to have that deleted from the grant.

During the inventory about 60-80 routes were discovered that were not on the map of existing routes. We are doing final ground proofing on that. I'm not familiar with the GIS processes and I'm told we are having problems synchronizing our info with the

contractor (ARS). As soon as I get the final maps I'll be able to put out the final draft of the plan. That should happen this summer followed by a public comment period.

Rogers – I move to extend the project end date by 12 months for completion of the inventory only. Second, French. Motion carried unanimous.

Baldwin – I will be in touch with you about deleting the access guides and you can report back to us in the fall about the status of the plan.

Morris – We can get the signs installed on the designated roads that won't change.

7. Consider the Project End Date Extension Approved by the Parks Board for the Prescott National Forest Recreational Trails Program Project #470603, Copper Canyon OHV Trailhead Development, Reconsider Project End Date Extension. A representative from the Prescott National Forest will make a presentation to identify the current status of the project and plans to complete the project within the extended period.

Tom Palmer, Verde Ranger District – Introduced Dan Salcido, Forest Engineer and Bob Burnside, Mayor Camp Verde. Provided map orientation. Reviewed timeline provided in handout.

Savino asked about combining multiple uses at trailhead, i.e. horses & 2-stroke dirt bikes. Did equestrian community contribute to the project?

Palmer – Yes, Verde Valley Horsemen contributed \$1000 for signs to recognize multiple uses and user safety. Cooperation is emphasized.

Group discussed other mixed use trailheads. Pfeifer noted there are some in Southern AZ and the users show respect for each other.

Palmer – Match contributions have been reaffirmed. Review final design plan p.35. Trail #545 is the main trail out of the trailhead and it leads to Trail #136 which is a road and it accesses the Hayfield Draw OHV Area. All trails on the Prescott are mixed use with vehicles limited to 50" or less.

Rogers moved to extend the project end date for the Prescott NF project #470603 by twelve months. Second, ??? Motion carries with one opposed.

Discussion: **Savino** opposes because of restriction on trails to 50" vehicles.

Burnside – That is correct, Trail #545 is designated for 50" or less vehicles. However, if you continue on the road to the trailhead past the entrance, that road is open to all vehicles and continues up Copper Canyon and across I-17 to an area known as Cherry Creek. That road goes down into Dumas and you can continue all the way to Prescott. All types of vehicles are allowed on that road and it is also served out of the trailhead. And, as you may notice, all of the donations are coming from the local community which represents all kinds of trail users. There are no OHV groups donating anything to this project.

8. Select a Representative to Serve on the OHV Ambassador Program Governing Council. This Council is being established under a Memorandum of Understanding between Arizona State Parks, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management – Arizona State Office, and the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service – Region 3 to oversee the operation of the OHV Ambassador Program.

Baldwin – Reviewed the purpose of the MOU and the make up of the Governing Council.

Rogers moved to appoint John Savino to serve as the representative from OHVAG for the OHV Ambassador Program Council until a replacement is selected by OHVAG.

Moore second. Motion passed unanimously.

9. Consider Funding Sticker Fund Project Selection Program Projects. The Prescott National Forest has presented two projects for funding from the Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Fund.

Jason Williams, Prescott NF – Provided overview of Prescott NF OHV program. We have the Alto Pit OHV Area, it is about 400 acres with 9 miles of ATV trails and provides access out into the forest to the north on trails #619, #620, & #621 where those trails access the level 2 road system which will take you to the Sheridan Mtn/Smith Mesa area. The Alto Pit OHV Area offers day use and camping with restrooms available. One of the grant projects I am applying for expands access to the south through the box culvert under Iron Springs Road.

Group – box culverts are an excellent way to continue trails across high-use roadways.

Williams – and they are super expensive to install under an existing roadway. We also have the Hayfield Draw OHV Area where we will be working next week with your grant dollars. One of the trails we planned to work on in our grant last year was Trail #527. Come to find out, I did not have the required cultural clearances to do that work, so we are asking for funds to complete the surveys and do work in the project I am presenting today. I will include clearances in the areas where we may want to reroute the trail.

Savino – asked if all of the trails are limited to 50" or less. Discussion ensued re virtues of 50" trail, lower maintenance expense because of equipment use, limits access by larger vehicles used by shooter who leave targets & trash behind. Savino represents sticker buyers who use larger side-by-side vehicles and will not approve funding for projects that do not accommodate those vehicles.

Baldwin – offered perspective on the development of OHV trails on the Prescott NF. In the mid-nineties, before UTV's, ATV users wanted facilities that separated them from the larger jeeps and 4x4 trucks. Prescott NF was on the cutting edge in providing those facilities at Hayfield Draw and Alto Pit. To expect them to go back now and expand all of those trail for UTV use is not realistic. There is still a need for ATV facilities. There are also over 1300 miles of level 2 roads on the Prescott NF that allow over 50" use. The existing EA (Environmental Assessment) was written to preserve the 50" standard were appropriate.

Williams – Hayfield Draw also offers opportunities to leave the 80 acres of designated open area to access about 50 miles of ATV trails. In the Sheridan Mtn/Camp Wood area there are approximately 112 miles of ATV and motorcycle trails. The Bradshaw Mtn area offers about 100 miles of OHV trails. On the Prescott NF we have about 400 miles of motorized trails (50" or less) and 400 miles of non-motorized trails.

Williams went on to discuss trail maintenance techniques including use of the SWECO trail tractor, different cattle guards, and signage/education materials. Repairing misused areas takes time and resources away from trail maintenance.

Williams also discussed the inability to provide effective enforcement as a deterrent to resource abuse.

Group discussed grant proposals. PRESCOTT NF OHV TRAILS IMPROVEMENT

Antle – Isn't the cultural clearance supposed to be done before the trails are built and are we funding cultural clearances?

Williams – Somehow these trails got built without the clearances being done.

Baldwin – We are allowing cultural clearances if they lead to project work.

Antle – Is any of the grant money being used for road closures?

Williams – No, I use my trail budget money for that. We are not closing roads. Our TMR was essentially done in 1989 and we identified all of our roads and trails at that time. We have not needed to close any of those. We continually shut down unauthorized trails, but that is considers mitigation work, not closure.

Rogers moved to fund the Prescott NF OHV Trail Improvements project for \$35,600 from the OHV Recreation Fund. **Moore** seconded. Motion passed with two nays.

Moore – stated that it is important that the funds get used to benefit the responsible riders that pay the fees.

Baldwin – reminded the group that these trails were built in response to user demand more than 10 years ago. The Prescott NF is not asking for money to build new trails. ATV users represent a large percentage of the users who buy stickers and their trails should be maintained with this money.

PRESCOTT NF LAW ENFORCEMENT EQUIPMENT

Rogers – is the tire upgrade you are requesting going to keep this vehicle under 50"?

Williams – the dealer assured me it would. They do provide more clearance.

Savino – explained that AZ Game & Fish Department get 35% of the fund for law enforcement purposes. The federal government should have their own funds to support law enforcement.

Williams – The vehicle would be used on conjunction with the Ambassador program and also could be used to get our district ranger out to project sites to see what we are dealing with. We thought this might be appropriate because you funded BLM for one.

Antle – I am concerned that the price is so high.

Rogers – I don't see the Game & Fish guys out in side-by-sides, am I right Jimmy (Simmons)?

Simmons – No, we just purchased two and our guys are all going to be using them.

Williams – We are now seeing that compliance is higher than non-compliance, so we have a no tolerance policy and we are issuing tickets for not having the sticker. Our LEO's are extremely busy with other enforcement activities across the forest, so when they showed an interest in enforcing the sticker regulations and being involved with the Ambassador Program, I told them I would come to you to see if we get got this very much needed enforcement tool. I will be used at all of the Ambassador events.

Rogers – Are the AGFD guys patrolling in the Prescott NF?

Simmons – We have on guy stationed in Dewey-Humboldt who will be in that area and the west Maricopa guy has the Lake Pleasant area up toward Crown King to the Region 3/6 boundary.

Baldwin – Law enforcement is an eligible item for use of the 60% State Parks gets for projects. The Ambassador program is designed to increase compliance with all laws, along with educational materials. The Prescott NF has primarily 50" trails and need a 50" vehicle to increase that compliance.

Pfeifer – Is there a motion to fund the Prescott NF Law Enforcement Equipment project? No motion was made.

Simmons – I would like to make it clear that we cannot offer money for equipment to anyone.

Group suggested he come back with a cheaper vehicle or possible an ATV.

Williams – asked about coming back with some match and just asking for the base price. He reiterated that the vehicle will managed in the recreation department for uses in addition to law enforcement.

Savino – was firmly opposed for providing equipment for law enforcement.

10. Consider the Staff Recommendations for Funding Applications Submitted for OHV Ambassador Program Expansion Grants. Staff will present a brief overview of the goals of the grant program and requirements of the applicants. OHVAG will discuss each application and may ask questions of the applicants.

a. The Community Forest Trust, Inc. will be cooperating with the Prescott National Forest to conduct sanctioned OHV Ambassador Program events on the Chino Valley, Bradshaw, and Verde Ranger Districts.

b. The White Mountains Open Trails Association, Inc. will be cooperating with the Lakeside Ranger District to conduct sanctioned OHV Ambassador Program events within the district.

c. The Arizona Sunriders ATV Club will be cooperating with the BLM – Yuma District Office to conduct OHV Ambassador Program events in the Yuma and Lake Havasu Field Office management areas. The Arizona Game and Fish Department, Yuma Region will provide the agency lead.

Baldwin explained the basis for the rating criteria as identified in the grant application manual and the strategy for the recommendation. No one from OHVAG responded to the invitation to sit in on the grant rating process. The rating committee consisted of Marge Dwyer (contracted administrative assistant to Chris Gammage, OHV Ambassador Program Coordinator, BLM), Doris Pulsifer (ASP staff and former grants chief), and myself.

Bruce Mauer, Community Forest Trust (CFT) – I am the only paid employee of the trust and I am the volunteer coordinator. We do all sorts of volunteer projects on the forest. We are applying for this grant because we would be the best organization to recruit and coordinated the volunteers for the Ambassador Program. We have 17 volunteers signed up for the program.

Savino – related a reference from the June 16, 2010 Parks Board minutes to the funds that the Parks Board set aside for the OHV Ambassador Program grants to "non-profit

OHV groups” to coordinate the OHVA Program. He pointed out that nowhere on their website could he find any indication that the CFT was an OHV group. The CFT does not appear to be an eligible applicant.

Mauer – explained the origin of the CFT and the current goals to help sustain the forest. He identified the various ongoing volunteer efforts including motorized and non-motorized trail maintenance.

Savino – asked if any portion of the CFT could be identified as and OHV group?

Mauer – We do not have a distinct segment of CFT identified as OHV users. Our proposed cooperation agreement with the forest service does indicate that we will be providing OHV volunteers for the Ambassador program and they will not sign this agreement unless we get the grant to operate the OHVA program. With this grant and the signed agreement we will have a definite OHV segment under the CFT.

A discussion revolved around the lack of current CFT involvement in OHV activities and their motivation for supporting OHV activities.

Tom Palmer, Prescott NF – Explained how the CFT has been a great asset to the forest in getting the many eager volunteer organized to do work that the forest can’t get to. They will now apply that coordination capability to accomplish the goals of the OHVA Program.

Rogers – Has Sanford Cohen been involved in this?

Mauer – We have not enlisted him as a volunteer yet, but he did give us time on his radio program to explain the program and solicit volunteers.

Baldwin – reminded the group of the purpose of these grants. The goal is to provide coordination for the program that the agency cannot. The grant puts control of the recruiting and training of OHVA volunteers in the hands of the grantee/coordinator. It provides equipment to the grantee/coordinator that they control and have ready access to. The grantee/coordinator provides liability insurance for the volunteers while they are participating on forest service property. They coordinate events in conjunction with the agency and see that the volunteers show up. The OHVA volunteers are OHV users who support the goals of the OHVA Program and want to do the things they are trained to do to encourage safe, responsible OHV use. They do not have to be members of the CFT. They are trained according to the OHVA manual.

Savino – I see this group as a conservation organization, not an OHV group and I am not in favor of giving our money to someone who does not represent OHV users.

Baldwin – At the OHVA events the volunteers represent the OHV Ambassador Program and the OHV community as stewards of the land. They are not there to bash OHV users!

Mauer – The volunteers will have an Ambassador uniform, the OHV trailer will be on display, and they will be passing out the OHV brochures.

The group is concerned that a “user group” (i.e., Sanford Cohen’s group) in the area has not stepped forward to take on the program. Baldwin reminded Rogers of his comment at the Flagstaff meeting in August that no one in his group would have the time to do this. Mauer expects participation from Cohen’s group.

Antle – So the advantage you have over a volunteer from a club is you get paid to do this.

Mauer – Yes, and we will have one other person from the CFT designated to help with this program. I am paid 50% from the FS and 50% from the CFT under other grants they have received.

Palmer – We see this as a tremendous opportunity to get more work done on the ground and get more positive messages out there to promote behaviors that will reduce future problems. We are committed to providing our resources to the success of this program even after the funds are gone.

Jimmy Simmons, AGFD OHV Program Manager – I participate on the OHVA planning team and we have discussed the group and I support what they are doing to get people out there promoting positive behaviors.

Mauer – identified the source of other funds the CFT has received. All of the sources provide funds for stewardship of the forest.

Savino – Do we have a mechanism in place to monitor this group after the funding has been approved?

Baldwin – There will be a signed agreement with State Parks identifying the terms for monitoring compliance with the OHVA Program goals. They will be working with Chris Gammage and providing documentation of accomplishments. They will be participating on the OHVA Planning Team and be subject to the scrutiny of the governing council we discussed earlier. They have an agreement with the forest to conduct the activities sanctioned by the OHVA Program.

Rogers – Every bone in my body tells me to run away from this. We are constantly getting stabbed in the back by environmental groups, but with Savino on the governing council to keep an eye on this group, I'm going to vote for this.

Savino – I think we have the mechanisms in place to see that things are done appropriately and this partnership can be an example nationwide of the cooperation between OHV users and environmentalists.

Mauer – When we first took this proposal to our group, they had reservations, too. Our goals are to promote responsible use of the forest by everyone and we have a responsibility to promote safe and responsible OHV use.

Rogers moved to recommend that \$25,000 from the OHV Recreation Fund be provided to the Community Forest Trust to expand the OHV Ambassador Program and encourage the State Parks Executive Director or designee to execute the appropriate agreement. **Antle** seconded. Motion passed with four yah and two nay votes.

Rogers moved to recommend that \$25,000 from the OHV Recreation Fund be provided to the White Mountain Open Trails Association to expand the OHV Ambassador Program and encourage the State Parks Executive Director or designee to execute the appropriate agreement. **Pfeifer** seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

11. Staff Response to OHVAG Recommended Procedures to Review and Approve Project End Date Extensions for Motorized Projects. OHVAG wants project sponsors to be more accountable for completing projects in a timely manner and has suggested

that staff require all sponsors of motorized trail projects to appear before the Group anytime they are requesting a time extension.

Baldwin pointed out that this information is being presented to OHVAG as a change in the administrative procedure for granting time extensions per OHVAG's request at the November 2010 meeting. No approval is need as long as the proposed action accomplishes the intended goal.

Pfeifer wanted to emphasize the importance of seeing a Gant chart with specific milestones to complete the project within the extended time and dates that those milestones will be met. He also suggested that a PowerPoint presentation showing accomplishments to date is helpful.

12. Review and Discuss New Member Applications for the Off-Highway Vehicle Advisory Group (OHVAG) and Consider Recommending a New Member for Appointment by the State Parks Board. OHVAG will discuss and review the application of a person interested in serving on OHVAG and may make a recommendation to the State Parks Board.

Baldwin called the group's attention to the application and supporting documents.

Savino moved that Jack Hickman be recommended to fill the OHV organization vacancy on the OHVAG and that he begin serving upon approval by the State Parks Board and continue through December 31, 2013, and that this recommendation be forwarded to the Arizona State Parks Board for final action immediately. **Rogers** seconded. Moore wanted to add a note for the Parks Board to act on this recommendation as soon as possible. Motion passed unanimously.

D. REPORTS - Committee and staff reports may be written or verbal. No action will be taken on issues raised in these presentations.

1. Chair's Report –

Pfeifer participated in a movie shoot recently with the folks from UMC, there the ones who handle the broken bones from accidents. They were trying to get some information out there, but they will a little off target because the people who were putting it together didn't have a lot of knowledge about ATV's. I was glad to be involved to see the logistics of putting it together and to get and idea of the cost. It didn't really cost a lot, around \$22,000. It wasn't the \$100k I was expecting.

I approached the AMA (American Motorcycle Association) about doing an article about the OHV Ambassador Program. They were receptive to the idea and I consulted with Bob about it. I'm not sure when the article will be out. I also have a picture in the last issue. I just trying to get some exposure for us.

I also talked to them about getting some passes to the motocross event in January and possibly a booth for the Ambassadors. I started too late for it to happen this year, but I have my foot in the door and know who to talk to for next year.

I got a list of the projects going on around the state from Bob and will be passing that along to the local clubs so they can see where projects are going on that might affect them.

2. Sub-Committee Reports – NONE

3. Agency Reports – All agencies participating in the Statewide OHV Ambassador Program or OHV recreation management are invited to address the Group.

Jimmy Simmons, AGFD OHV Law Enforcement Program Manager – We have four full-time law enforcement officers on the ground presently. They are located in Prescott, Tucson, and two in the valley. We have two first time law enforcement candidate presently in the academy. When they complete that training, they will be joined by our third candidate who has been with the Florence PD. They will complete the post-academy training and will be in the field by January 2012. We are still looking for two more we can put on a fast track. (His explanation of where the funding for the extra two that makes nine was coming from.) This is part of the information we will be reporting to the State Legislature in September regarding how we are using our “sticker” money. Bob will be reporting on the projects you have approved.

I have inherited a position on the Southwest Alliance for Recreational Safety committee along with Jim Harken, our OHV PIO and Ed Huntsman, Information & Education branch. They are making a movie similar to the AGFD academy award-winning movie “Splash”. It starts out with two story lines about groups in diametrically opposed situations whose paths cross. In this movie one group will be following the rules regarding OHV safety and the other will be ignoring them. Their paths will cross in this half hour movie with dramatic repercussions. Our budget is about \$120k. They plan to show this in emergency room waiting areas at the AGFD office and anywhere else they can. I will also have snippets of it to show at my outreach trailer. Is this anything that this group would consider for funding?

Rogers – My main concern is that AGFD is kicking in on this too.

Simmons – There is already the value of what we do coordinating the project. I will see what other dollars are available.

Pfeifer – To answer your question, we are not opposed to it. We do want to see who else is contributing.

Baldwin – This would be eligible for the RTP education funds.

Simmons – They are also interested in getting a brochure together before their August conference. I will get a grant application in for that and let them present it to you.

4. Staff Reports

a) Update on Arizona State Parks Board actions – Donald French was appointed to a three-year term beginning January 1, 2011 on OHVAG representing an organization for ATV users from Mohave County. Rebecca Antle was appointed to continue serving in her position representing an organization for 4-wheel drive users from Pima County until a replacement can be appointed.

b) Staff will bring the group up to date on the status of the OHV Recreation Fund and Sticker Fund projects. – Report to Rep. Weiars included in packet with fund income information and balance sheet. Also, a report on the status of the awarded projects is included in the packet.

5. Guest Presentations –

Jack Hickman, President Arizona Off-Highway Vehicle Coalition

The coalition was designed to encompass anyone who recreates including boaters, horseback riders, and hikers. Right now we primarily focus on all forms of motorized users: 4x4, ATV (>50"), and dirt bikes. We are a 501C3 and we employ a lobbyist (Nick Simonetta) who works for us regarding recreation issues. He helped get the sticker legislation passed. You heard from Jeff Gursh earlier. He is our legislative liaison and grants coordinator. He is one of the few people in Arizona trained to use the SWECO trail dozer. I am also the VP for the Arizona 4-Wheel Drive Association and an avid OHV recreationist.

Savino – I have been President of the White Mountain Open Trails Association for over two years. We have 200 members and we have not been contacted by your organization. Why is that?

Hickman – We don't have a full-time membership person. The organization was formed a long time ago by Sanford Cohen, Sandee McCullum, and Jeff Gursh, but is really still in its infancy, although we have accomplished some amazing things. I have only been with the group for three years and am getting more and more involved all the time, i.e. this application to OHVAG. I recreate primarily in the Phoenix area, I rock crawl. So, I am not really in tune with motorized trail issues.

Rogers – I am from the White Mountains and we are constantly reminded about the "state of Maricopa". We need to get these groups together working in the same direction to make things happen.

Hickman – I totally agree. There are still too many people out there with the perception that "I can ride wherever the hell I want to!" We need to unite like the environmentalists have so that we are heard. I just don't have full-time funding for my attendant. Right now we are focusing on on-the-ground projects. We do need to look at expanding the group. That requires some computer technology that I am not familiar with. I have some volunteer help working with me on our webpage and trying to figure out our server problems. Last year we signed a \$1.5 million assistance agreement with the BLM. We are now the go-to guys for their trail maintenance issues. We got them seven grants last year including that RZR grant. Most of those projects are completed.

I have talked to Becky (Antle) about contacting some groups in Tucson. I have a gold panning group in Tucson that wants me to come talk to them. We want to be the go-to group for any recreational issue. We have good relations with all agencies around the state. We have not lost any trails to close on the plans that we have participated in.

Charles Quiroz & Mark Kingsley, Pima Motorsports Park (520-245-5278)

Kingsley discussed plans for operation of PMP. We plan to keep the park open Wed-Sun in winter and Wed-Sat in summer. We will be collected daily use fees to help cover maintenance of the facility. We will have one full-time paid manager and two helpers. I intend to reinvest as much of the revenue as I can and develop addition venues at the park. One in particular will be the "trophy truck" track. Another group has approached us to add a "rally cross" track. We would like to improve the single track trail around the back of the property. Our focus will be to lease the facility to promoters who will run the events. We want to keep the lights on and the bills paid.

Quiroz – Mark is being modest. He put up \$100k from his own pocket to get this business started. The kart track I operate was started with \$150k of my money, \$100k

from a local surgeon, and Mark paid \$300k for the naming right to the facility, Musselman Honda Circuit. That name will remain with the kart track and not be mixed with the operation of the motorsports park. We do this out of our love for the sport.

Kingsley – The lease is for 15 years with two 5-year options. We will offer a membership for \$100 / year. Daily admission will be \$20 with the membership and \$25 without. Each venue may have an additional fee and we will rent the entire facility for \$2000 / day. Individual venues will be \$1000 / day. Our venues will include: a redesign of the motocross track making it into a small track and a larger nationals sized track and in three years we hope to have “the nationals” there; the sand drags; rock crawling; three different safety training areas; trail system; and, possibly a mud bog in monsoon season.

To date we have not received any contribution. We are actively seeking partnership. Dirt Works is a desirable possibility. If we can get Dirt Works to redo the track, it will be like having Jack Nicklaus build a golf course, people will want to use it. Empire Caterpillar is a desirable partner to provide equipment for construction and several of our friends are in the excavation business. The Pima Sheriff’s Office and Pima College may provide training opportunities. I have also contact all of the local dealerships to let them know this park is not exclusive to Musselman Honda Circuit. We want everyone involved to make it self-sustaining. I have 16 promotional ATV’s out there now that are being used by All-Terain Vehicle Safety Training Institute (ASI) for training purposes.

Baldwin (per request from Savino) summarized the history of Pima Motorsports Park. The first grant was awarded in 1996 to build the park from scratch. Around \$1 million from the OHV Recreation Fund has been spent on the facility. There is a building with a training room and a couple of offices. There is a motocross competition track and a couple of smaller practice tracks. They have a couple of 4-wheel drive obstacles (a tire pit and boulders) and an ATV track. There have been two operators for about two years each. Last year we built the rock crawling course with \$300k in RTP funds. The county owns it and does not have the expertise to operate it. It’s been tough because motocross practice has been the main focus and people don’t want to pay to come in to use the other facilities. I think with a big focus on training, these guys can tap into new markets.

Quiroz – Each of the venues is a separate entity. I know a lot about motocross, but I don’t know anything about rock crawling. So we are going to the user and telling them about the facility and asking what we can do to make it desirable for them to use. We will provide the maintenance and restrooms for events if they want to rent the facility. And we have insurance to cover small groups who want to “test & tune” their vehicles. If they want to rent the facility, they need to bring us an insurance policy that covers Pima County and us up to \$5 million.

Kingley – We have insurance they can use for event and the more venues in use at the same time, the cheaper the insurance.

Quiroz – We want to use the excellent training facility as much as possible. The entire facility has huge potential, that’s why we applied to manage it.

Kingsley – We have not opened yet, but we are in negotiations with We Rock to hold a rock crawling competition on April 2nd. We are contacting the lead groups so that we can hold some national event in the next three years.

Quiroz – We are not here asking for money today. We wanted you to meet us and hear what we are about. We do want to add bathrooms and additional fencing in the future. I am VP and Mark is President of the PMP. I started out by developing the adjacent property as a go-kart track. The asphalt road course is now being used by the Pima County Sheriff's motorcycle motorcade.

Kingsley – Having the adjacent property provides additional land to expand our trail system and develop more technical training areas. We need to get the sand drag, rock crawling, and motocross facilities up and running before we develop the other venues. We don't want to make too many contacts with other entities before we can offer them facilities.

We have a safety video that everyone who uses the facility must view. It basically tells you how to turn your vehicle on & off and puts everyone to sleep. We want to upgrade that with some real safe use information.

E. CALL TO THE PUBLIC - During the public meeting OHVAG may afford any person the opportunity to present statements relating to agenda items, with or without the opportunity to present them orally. Those wishing to address the Group must register at the door and be recognized by the Chair. Each presentation will be given approximately five minutes if time permits. It is probable that each presentation will be limited to one person per organization. Action taken as a result of public comment will be limited to directing staff to study or re-schedule the matter for further consideration at a later time. **NONE**

F. SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS, MATTERS OF BOARD PROCEDURE, REQUESTS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

G. TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETINGS – OHVAG will meet on the following dates:

Friday, May 20, 2011 @ 10am with ASCOT as the State Recreational Trails Advisory Committee, AND @ 1pm for OHVAG business. LOCATION: Red Rock Ranger District office, Hwy 179, Sedona, AZ

OTHER DATES WERE DISCUSSED AND AGREED UPON:

Friday, August 19, 2011 @ 1pm. LOCATION: Kingman – Hualapai Mtn Park

Saturday, August 20, 2011 @ 9am. LOCATION: Kingman – field trip to Hualapai Mtn Park

Friday, October 21, 2011 @ 1pm. LOCATION: Tucson, Pima Motorsports Park

H. ADJOURNMENT – 6:10 pm